



**LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Henry J. Mroz Administration Office**  
**155 Merrimack Street**  
**Lowell, Massachusetts 01852**

**John J. Leahy**  
**Mayor and Chairperson**

### **Facilities Subcommittee**

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**Andre P. Descoteaux**  
**Vice-Chairperson**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Hilary Clark**  
**Michael Dillon Jr.**  
**Jackie Doherty**  
**Connie A. Martin**

Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Ms. Doherty, Mr. Descoteaux and Mr. Dillon
School Committee Members Present:	Ms. Martin
School Department Personnel Present:	Dr. James P. Hall, Chief Operating Officer Mr. Underwood, Director of Facilities Dr. Guillory, Chief Schools Officer

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Chairperson Doherty called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to review the following:

1. Update on Priority List of Facility Upgrades from March 11 Facilities Subcommittee meeting
2. Request the Superintendent or his designee collaborate with the city's DPW, Police, and Parks Departments to:
  - a. Prioritize maintenance/safety of parks near our schools,
  - b. Collaborate and prioritize getting outdoor place structures for the Rogers Stem Academy, the Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, and the Bartlett Community Partnership schools, and
  - c. Work together to assess the feasibility/availability of tents for schools to use during the extended summer program.

Chairperson Doherty asked Mr. Underwood to address the Subcommittee. Mr. Underwood stated that the infrastructure improvements and repairs for the summer of 2021 have continued to move forward. He stated that the Robinson School restroom floors have been completed and

the rusted leaking floor drain has been replaced that was found during the demolition of the old floors. He stated that new fixtures were installed and the project will be completed once the walls are painted. He stated that he has received a quote for the Wang School and it has been accepted for removal, repair as well as reinstalling the seats in the theatre and to have the carpet replaced. He stated that the work is scheduled to start when school is out. He stated that at the Pawtucket Memorial, he has received a quote for the repairs of the columns at the main entrance. The quote will be given to the PTO on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 and it will be completed before or just after school is out. He stated that the flooring project at the Greenhalge is still awaiting additional quotes. He stated that some of the bigger projects are unfortunately going to take longer than he had hoped.

Mr. Dillon asked if projects are still on track.

Mr. Underwood stated that he believes everything looks good. He stated that he is waiting for asphalt which is a more involved project. He stated that some of the prices for some of the projects are coming in lower than anticipated and others higher, but overall money appears to be on track as well.

Mr. Descoteaux asked if there was a deadline.

Mr. Underwood stated that he is going to speak with Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer for some clarification. He stated that he wants to make sure he can continue with all the projects.

Ms. Doherty stated that we need to have a joint Facilities Subcommittee meeting with the City Council as we move forward.

Dr. Hall informed the Subcommittee that he has identified some playground sets that will cost approximately \$300,000.

Mr. Underwood stated that there is no reason we can't move forward with the playground sets and he believes that the City is on board. He stated that if we allocate the funds we can get the playgrounds done by the end of the summer.

Mr. Underwood also stated that the City is also taking a look at the HVAC systems and \$1.6 million dollars has been allocated for that.

Mr. Dillon stated that we need to find the funds for the playground sets.

Ms. Doherty stated that she agreed and that we have other places we can pull the money from.

Mr. Descoteaux asked if there has been an effort between the school and the city to have a maintenance schedule in place.

Mr. Underwood stated that they looked at Johnson Controls who work on HVAC units and that it is very costly. It would cost \$15,000 a month per school for them to service the HVAC units. He stated that they are now looking at some smaller local companies and that would need to go out to bid. He stated that he has also had conversations about hiring someone.

Mr. Descoteaux stated that it's a staggering number and wondered if we could put another application into MSBA.

Mr. Underwood stated that the plan is continue to put applications into MSBA and that he has no reason to believe the City won't continue to partner with the schools if the money runs out.

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to move forward with allocating funds for the playground sets; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 3 yeas APPROVED**

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to adjourn at 6:07 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 3 yeas APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dr. James P. Hall, Chief Operating  
Officer for Dr. Joel Boyd,  
Superintendent and Secretary, Lowell  
School Committee

JPH/mes